



VERA FRENCH

October 8, 2015

Re: Vera French Reach 2000 Reallocation

Dear Amber,

I am writing to you today to request that Vera French Housing Corporation retain all of the funds for our HUD grant. This grant is for our Vera French Reach 2000 project. The project has been around for many years and each year continues to keep people permanently housed in a supported environment.

We have tenants that have lived in their apartments for 8 and 9 years. We are extremely proud that these tenants have come from homelessness and domestic violence situations and are thriving.

In the last two years Vera French Housing has added four apartments to this grant. Earlier this year we were able to house a homeless mom and her three children that came from the domestic violence shelter. With continued supports they are flourishing in their apartment and in school.

In Davenport it is very hard to find affordable apartments that are in good condition. We have struggled with being able to obtain apartments to rent for our HUD grant. We have also run into property managers that have not been kind to our tenants and will not respond to any maintenance requests on the properties. At one point a few years ago we found out that a tenant in this program didn't have air conditioning for a few days. Vera French Housing sent over our own maintenance team to take care of the problem.

We are now working with a very good company and property manager. The problem is that these properties are still expensive and they increase rents every single year. Vera French Housing is a non-profit housing corporation that has permanent supported housing for persons with mental illness. Our mission is to provide affordable housing options linked with appropriate supportive services for persons with severe and persistent mental illness.

We want and need to grow our housing but cannot afford to do so without grants. If our grant monies are cut we do not have the money to sustain apartments. Cutting down on apartments because of lack of funding also means not being able to fulfill the number of apartments that we are supposed to maintain in the grant. This is a catch 22..

Vera French Housing Corporation is asking that we are able to maintain our grant without any cuts. If at all possible it would be wonderful to increase the dollar amounts for leasing in our Reach 2000 grant. Each day we have more and more phone calls and applications from people that are greatly in need of our services.

Thank you so much for your consideration and all of your time and hard work.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kiser-Willey

Executive Director Vera French Housing